# THE ART AND SCIENCE
## OF THE PROPER AND TRUE PROPORTION OF THE ATTIC LETTERS, WHICH ARE OTHERWISE CALLED ANTIQUE LETTERS, AND IN COMMON SPEECH ROMAN LETTERS. BOOK I.

YING in my bed, on the morning of the Feast of Kings,* when I had had my sleep and rest, & my stomach had readily digested its light and pleasant repast, in the year that was reckoned as MDXXIII, I fell to musing and set the wheel of my memory awhirl thinking on a thousand little conceits, some serious & some joyous, among which there came to my mind a certain Antique letter which I had lately made for my lord the Treasurer for War, Maistre Jehan Groslier, Counsellor and Secretary to our Lord the King, lover of well-made letters and of all learned persons, by whom also he is much loved & esteemed on both this & the other side of the mountains. And whilst thinking of this Attic Letter, there came of a sudden into my memory a pithy passage in the first book & eighth chapter of the De Officiis of Cicero, where it is written: *Non nobis solum nati sumus; ortusque nostri partem patria vendicat, partem amici.*† Which is to say, in substance, that we are not born into this world for ourselves alone, but to serve & give pleasure to our friends & country. For this reason, desiring to employ myself in some degree for the public good, I bethought myself to show forth & teach in this little work the manner of making symmetrically, that is to say, in their due proportions, the Attic letters, wherein I see many men on this side of the mountains, who would fain make use of them, to be far from expert, to such a degree that they know not of what dimensions and shapes they ought to be. I might treat also of the *lettre de forme* and *de la bastarde,* but for this time, with our Lord's assistance, I shall draw the Attic Letter only. Some have tried to turn me from my purpose, saying that I ought not to make it so public, but to keep it secret for myself. Saving their honour, I think not, and that I should not be avaricious of this useful knowledge. I might have discoursed and written in Latin, which I could well do, as I believe, and as anyone may know from the little Latin books which I have had printed

* *The Epiphany, or Twelfth Night.*

† *The proper reference is* 1, 7, 22. *Cicero ascribes the saying to Plato.*